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Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields

Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit

Implementation of decisions from the 2005 World Summit Outcome for action by the Secretary-General

Report of the Secretary-General

I. Introduction

1. The 2005 World Summit Outcome (General Assembly resolution 60/1, hereinafter referred to as the Summit Outcome) provides an impressive agenda of reform which, when fulfilled, will give the world a much strengthened United Nations able to better meet the great demands it faces. The challenge now is to see that agenda through to its full implementation.

2. This is a challenge shared by the United Nations as a whole and we must move forward in a spirit of collaboration, with determination and due speed. There are issues in the Summit Outcome, such as the establishment of a Peacebuilding Commission, a Human Rights Council and a comprehensive terrorism convention, which require further discussion by the Member States under the able leadership of the President of the General Assembly. My office will continue to provide any advice and assistance as may be requested during this process.

3. The Summit Outcome as a whole also provides comprehensive policy guidance for the ongoing work of the Secretariat and the United Nations agencies, funds and programmes. All entities of the United Nations system will therefore be reviewing their programmes in the light of this guidance.

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4. Finally, there are a range of specific decisions taken at the Summit, on management reform and on the programmatic side, for which implementation will require specific action by the Secretariat and related United Nations entities.

5. Work on these reforms is well under way, and the present report is submitted to inform Member States of the workplan for implementing these specific "deliverables". It provides information on the overall framework I have established for implementation of the Summit Outcome, both programmatic and management-related, and the basic processes and timelines expected for each area of activity. It is hoped that with this information, Member States will be able to better track the various initiatives that are under way.

Follow-up mechanism

6. I will lead directly the implementation of actions mandated in the Summit Outcome. For a number of individual programmatic elements (described below in the order in which they appear in resolution 60/1), implementation will fall to the lead United Nations department or entity with the relevant mandate. In such cases, that entity has already been informed, and will work with other relevant parts of the system as necessary to prepare further proposals for General Assembly consideration, implementation plans and other deliverables as necessary. The timelines will vary by issue, as indicated below, and in some cases will be subject to decisions by the Member States.

7. In addition to the individual programmatic elements, much of the Summit implementation activity described herein falls into four broad clusters of activity. To ensure a coherent response, I have tasked senior officials with leading efforts in each cluster and with assisting me in carrying this work forward. The Deputy Secretary-General will assist me in coordinating these efforts. The first cluster includes work related to institutional innovations, including providing ongoing support to the intergovernmental process discussing the Peacebuilding Commission and Human Rights Council and finalizing details and/or beginning implementation of such new entities as the Peacebuilding Support Office and the Peacebuilding Fund. It also includes the analysis and recommendations requested in support of the review of programmatic and institutional mandates older than five years. The second cluster includes the overhaul of oversight and audit arrangements, including the creation of an ethics office and strengthened financial disclosure regulations (which have been largely finalized) and the development of new oversight arrangements, including the establishment of a new oversight committee reporting to the General Assembly. A third cluster comprises the review of existing financial and human resources regulations, rules and policies and development of the proposed staff buy-out programme. The fourth cluster will encompass the review of system-wide coherence, including ensuring greater policy and operational coordination across the specialized agencies, funds and programmes, particularly at the country level, and the request that I launch work to develop concrete proposals for more tightly managed entities in the fields of development, humanitarian assistance and the environment.

Budgetary implications

8. The decisions taken at the Summit are in the process of being costed, and a report on their financial implications will be submitted by early November 2005 to

the General Assembly for consideration by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the Fifth Committee. Budgetary implications related to matters still under consideration by the Member States, such as the Peacebuilding Commission and the Human Rights Council, will need to be assessed separately once final decisions on modalities have been taken.

II. Elements of the Summit Outcome

Economic and social development

9. As mentioned above, to address the range of important recommendations related to economic and social development, all relevant United Nations entities have been requested to review their priorities and programmes in the light of the Summit Outcome (resolution 60/1, paras. 17-68). For those entities that do not fall directly under my jurisdiction, I am working with my colleagues through the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB). This will be the main focus of the CEB meeting on 28 and 29 October 2005. The United Nations Development Group is scaling up the process of supporting and monitoring country-level follow-up on the Millennium Development Goals, while the Department of Economic and Social Affairs is further strengthening its capacity to monitor and assess the progress at achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, at the global level; members of the Executive Committee on Economic and Social Affairs will be actively engaged in this work. I am also addressing letters to Member States regarding the need to take appropriate measures to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by 2015. While Goals should remain the focus of our priorities, the Summit Outcome also refers to the integrated follow-up of the major conferences, which remain important areas for United Nations support for development activities.

Pacific settlement of disputes

10. Measures to promote a coherent and integrated approach to the prevention of armed conflict and to strengthen the capacity of the United Nations for the prevention of armed conflict will be recommended in my next report on the prevention of armed conflict, which will be issued during the current session of the General Assembly. I will propose ways to further support national efforts and build national capacity to prevent conflict, to support regional and global strategies to respond to cross-border problems that can destabilize countries and regions and to enhance the capacity of the United Nations to mobilize other actors and establish strategic partnerships to promote peace and prevent violence. The report will also provide an assessment of the capacity of the United Nations system and other international actors to prevent violent conflicts, as requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 57/337 (ibid., paras. 74 and 75).

11. The Department of Political Affairs is developing a proposal for the enhancement of its capacity for mediation and good offices to support my good offices function and the work of my special envoys (ibid., para. 76). It is my intention that the Department should serve as a centre of expertise and a resource on mediation for the United Nations system as a whole and as a focal point for interaction with non-United Nations mediation and good offices efforts where the United Nations can play a supporting role or offer assistance. As noted in paragraph 8 above, a report on financial implications will be submitted by early November.

Terrorism

12. To assist the General Assembly in its deliberations on a counter-terrorism strategy, I stand ready to make available to the Assembly an updated version of the elements of my previous strategy, if so requested, when the Assembly decides to discuss this issue (ibid., para. 82).

13. I have formed a Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force chaired by my office and bringing together United Nations entities that can contribute to international counter-terrorism efforts. I intend to submit proposals by early 2006 to the General Assembly and the Security Council, in accordance with their respective mandates, to strengthen the capacity of the United Nations system to assist States in combating terrorism and to enhance the coordination of United Nations activities in this regard (ibid., para. 88). The proposals will cover a broad range of activities by the Secretariat departments and entities such as the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Peacekeeping

14. With the explicit endorsement of the Summit for the creation of an initial operating capability for a standing police capacity, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations is already working with Member States to develop detailed modalities for its implementation in 2006 (ibid., para. 92).

15. To carry forward the recommendation of the Summit for the further development of proposals for enhanced rapidly deployable capacities to reinforce peacekeeping operations in crisis, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations will continue discussions with members of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations regarding those proposals (ibid.). To that end, the Department has already presented a proposal for a strategic reserves concept and will continue to engage with Member States in the Special Committee on the development of this and other potential options to meet the need identified by the Summit. In my report to the Special Committee in January 2006, I will present updates and recommendations on the way forward on both initiatives described above.

African Union-United Nations cooperation

16. Progress has been made in building up collaboration between the United Nations and the African Union (ibid., para. 93 (b)). For example, in peacekeeping the United Nations continues to assist the African Union mission in Darfur, Sudan, through an assistance cell in Addis Ababa. But much more needs to be done to strengthen our collaboration across all areas of our work. I have tasked the Department of Political Affairs, working with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and all relevant Secretariat departments and related entities, to prepare a set of proposals for my consideration by December 2005. The proposals will naturally be developed in consultation and collaboration with the African Union. As an illustration, a five-year African programme of action (2006-2010) on strengthening criminal justice systems and the rule of law was endorsed by member States at a recent round-table meeting in Abuja. It should also be noted that in the high-level meeting of the United Nations and regional organizations on 25 and 26 July, it was agreed that a report would be prepared for the next high-level meeting on the implementation of the 10-year process of sustained capacity-building support for African regional and subregional organizations. The United Nations will

continue to work through this process to build its collaboration with all regional organizations in this effort.

Peacebuilding

17. With respect to the decision of the Summit to establish a Peacebuilding Commission (ibid., para. 97), the Secretariat remains at the disposal of the General Assembly to assist as required in ongoing discussions on the Commission. I have also indicated to the President of the Assembly that he will have at his disposal United Nations officials from Headquarters and the field to provide briefings as may be requested on the possible role and impact of the Commission in terms of United Nations efforts in the field.

18. The Secretariat is proceeding with work on the design and terms of reference of the Peacebuilding Fund (ibid., para. 103). It is expected that this will be completed by early November. I would therefore hope that that Fund could be established by the end of November 2005.

19. Some early work has been done to prepare the Peacebuilding Support Office requested in the Summit Outcome (ibid., para. 104). It is envisaged that the Peacebuilding Support Office will be a relatively small office and have the following main tasks: to provide support to the Peacebuilding Commission in its substantive functions; to assist me in catalysing the United Nations system as a whole to develop effective strategies for peacebuilding, working with United Nations country teams, the international financial institutions and outside expertise; to advise my office and the Peacebuilding Commission on strategic peacebuilding options and the interlinkages between political, security, humanitarian, justice, economic/financial, institution-building and related initiatives; and to advise on long-term and regional perspectives, building on country expertise within the system. I would also expect that the Peacebuilding Support Office would, at periodic intervals, review progress towards peacebuilding goals and provide advice, if necessary, on suggested changes in overall strategy. As indicated in paragraph 8 above, financial implications for the Office will be submitted in early November. I have taken interim steps to set up a start-up element of the Office, using posts currently available, so as to ensure that it is in a position to help prepare for the pending establishment of the Peacebuilding Commission.

Sanctions

20. With respect to the Summit's decision that the Security Council should improve monitoring of the implementation and effects of sanctions and ensure that fair and clear procedures exist for placing individuals and entities on sanctions lists and for removing them, as well as for granting humanitarian exemptions, it is understood that the Council will determine the timing and manner of its consideration (ibid., paras. 108 and 109). For its part, the Secretariat will be prepared to assist as required. To that end I have tasked the Office of Legal Affairs to begin an interdepartmental process to develop proposals and guidelines that would be available for the consideration of the Security Council.

Transnational crime

21. UNODC continues to support Governments in the full implementation of the drug control conventions through a balanced programme of work involving

advocacy, legislation, prevention and supply reduction (ibid., para. 115). The international community now has five new instruments in the area of transnational crime: the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the three protocols thereto and the Convention against Corruption. All call for a wide range of expanded services and expertise from UNODC, including: (a) assisting the conferences of the parties to the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (and its three related protocols) and the Convention against Corruption (which will enter into force 14 December 2005) in implementing their mandates, particularly the monitoring of the implementation of the provisions of these Conventions; (b) supporting the ratification and implementation of the conventions by assisting Member States through the provision of substantive legal expertise; (c) preparing technical tools and model legislation to facilitate the efficient implementation of the conventions; (d) assisting States to improve their capacity to prevent and control transnational crime and corruption, emphasizing international cooperation in such areas as extradition, mutual legal assistance and asset recovery; and (e) providing strategic advice to Member States on the basis of an expanded system of information and data collection in order to report on trends in the areas covered by the Conventions. With respect to strengthening UNODC to carry out its mandate, financial implications will be submitted in early November 2005.

Human rights

22. The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights is already taking steps to advance activities in the five areas included in the plan of action submitted to the General Assembly (A/59/2005/Add.3), namely: (a) greater country engagement; (b) an enhanced human rights leadership role for the High Commissioner; (c) closer partnerships with civil society and United Nations agencies; (d) more synergy in the relationship between the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the various United Nations human rights bodies; and (e) strengthened management and planning for OHCHR (resolution 60/1, para. 124). As a first step, OHCHR is creating a dedicated centrally placed policy, planning, monitoring and evaluation unit, which, working together with other parts of the Office and drawing on existing expertise, will help to ensure that the strategic vision of OHCHR is translated into concrete priorities and operational plans. The unit will also contribute to the promotion of better linkages between the various programmes within the Office and to the more effective monitoring of impact and results.

23. The stipulated doubling of the regular budget resources of OHCHR over the next five years (ibid.) is essential to strengthening the Office to enable it to effectively carry out its mandate to respond to the broad range of human rights challenges facing the international community, particularly in the areas of technical assistance and capacity-building. The financial implications will be submitted by early November.

Rule of law

24. Programmes to support the rule of law cover a broad range of United Nations activities, in both post-conflict environments and development work (ibid., para. 134). The rule of law will also be a central part of the work of the Peacebuilding Commission, and the Peacebuilding Support Office will need to draw

on rule of law capacity from across the system. A rule of law unit such as that recommended by the Summit (ibid., para. 134 (e)) must serve as a link and a coordination point across the entire system, while not duplicating that which already exists. An inventory is currently under way of the rule of law capacity and, more broadly, peacebuilding capacity, that currently exists in the system. On that basis I would propose to submit recommendations on the rule of law unit in early 2006 for the consideration of Member States.

Democracy

25. To date, 15 countries from different regions have made pledges to the United Nations Democracy Fund amounting to $42.2 million (ibid., para. 136). The support office of the Fund is in the process of being set up, and the first meeting of its Advisory Board is expected to be held by the end of November. I would like to take this opportunity to remind Member States of the invitation addressed to them in the Summit Outcome to make contributions to the Fund (ibid., para. 137).

Initiatives on dialogue among cultures, civilizations and religions

26. The Summit Outcome requests that I explore enhancing implementation mechanisms and follow up on General Assembly initiatives related to a culture of peace and dialogue among civilizations (ibid., para. 144). I have already established a high-level group of eminent personalities drawn from a range of societies to broadly represent the world's diversity of cultures (or "civilizations"). Supported by a small secretariat, the group is to submit a report to me by the end of 2006. The report is expected to recommend a practicable and implementable plan of action to counter the alarming rise in extremist attitudes in many societies, which have caused dangerously hostile perceptions across cultural lines.

Economic and Social Council

27. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs is supporting the Presidents of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly in elaborating the new functions assigned to the Council. It is expected that additional support and work will be required in deciding the modalities for implementing the tasks that the Council has been mandated to perform, such as annual ministerial reviews and assessments, convening of a biennial development cooperation forum, better and rapid response to emergencies and strengthened coordination of United Nations system activities, as well as the Council's links to peacebuilding activities (ibid., para. 155). The financial implications for carrying out these new functions will be submitted in early November.

Human Rights Council

28. OHCHR is working with the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management to ensure that support arrangements will be in place for the Human Rights Council as soon as the General Assembly takes a decision on the matter (ibid., para. 157). In anticipation of the Council's overall conferencing workload exceeding the workload of the Commission on Human Rights, tentative budgetary requirements will be submitted in early November 2005. More definitive overall requirements, for conference services as well as for substantive support, will

be proposed as soon as the Secretariat receives further guidance on the modalities for the functioning of the Council.

System-wide code of ethics

29. A number of ethics initiatives are being initiated within the Secretariat to ensure compliance with the existing standards of conduct and to develop a system-wide code of ethics for all United Nations personnel, as requested in the Summit Outcome (ibid., para. 161 (d)). These initiatives include development of the "integrity awareness initiative", which is a mandatory system-wide learning programme on integrity and professionalism in the workplace, and broad dissemination of "Ethics: Working Together", a booklet based on the "Status, basic rights and duties of United Nations staff members" (ST/SGB/2002/13). Furthermore, progress has already been made on developing a code of ethics for the entire United Nations system.

Ethics office

30. Preparations are almost complete for the creation of an ethics office, which will be responsible for administering the financial disclosure and whistleblower protection policies and for providing advisory and standard-setting capacity within the United Nations (ibid.). A Secretary-General's bulletin establishing the Ethics Office will be issued by the end of October. Consultations with the United Nations funds and programmes are under way to determine cooperative arrangements that might be concluded between them and the Secretariat. The office will report to me and will include small satellite offices to be established in the major United Nations offices away from Headquarters. The financial implications will be submitted in early November 2005.

Budgetary, financial and human resources regulations, rules and policies and conditions and measures necessary for the Secretary-General to carry out his managerial responsibility effectively

31. As noted in paragraph 7 above, a follow-up mechanism is in place to develop proposals to ensure that the existing budgetary, financial and human resources policies, regulations and rules will be reviewed with a view to aligning them with the current and future needs of the Organization and to enabling the Secretary-General to carry out his managerial responsibilities effectively (ibid., para. 163 (a)). The objective of such a review is to make policies and procedures more effective and efficient, leading to a system that will better meet the current and future needs of the Organization. This review will be conducted through a broad consultative process, including both United Nations and external expertise. I will submit a set of concrete proposals to the General Assembly in the first quarter of 2006.

Analysis and recommendations for review of mandates older than five years

32. The decision of world leaders to ask the General Assembly and other relevant organs to conduct a review of all mandates older than five years (ibid., para. 163 (b)) provides an unprecedented opportunity to revitalize the Organization, refine its focus and renew its objectives. In order to provide the Assembly with my analysis

and recommendations in support of carrying out the review by the first quarter of 2006, I have initiated a process within the Secretariat to review all mandates older than five years, with a view to assisting the General Assembly to update and focus the work of the Organization, taking due account of the recommendations of the specialized intergovernmental bodies. The preparation of the proposed strategic framework for the biennium 2008-2009 will be initiated by the Secretary-General subsequent to the General Assembly's approval of the review. Consequently, the proposed strategic framework will be submitted to the Committee for Programme and Coordination in August/September 2006 so that its recommendations may be presented to the Assembly at its sixty-first session.

Framework for a one-time buy-out of staff

33. As the Member States have requested, a detailed proposal and framework for a one-time staff buy-out to improve personnel structure and quality will be submitted to the General Assembly (ibid., para. 163 (c)). The framework will include a detailed methodology and cost parameters. Clear criteria for the buy-out will be established in consultation with staff.

Strengthened capacity of the Office of Internal Oversight Services in audit and investigation

34. Strengthening the expertise, capacity and resources of the Office of Internal Oversight Services will occur in two phases (ibid., para. 164 (a)). In the first phase, additional audit and investigation resources will be provided immediately, particularly for the purpose of focusing on quality assurance and control, self-assessment, audits of information technology and administration, investigations of significant sexual exploitation and abuse cases and training for programme managers to handle cases of lower risk to the Organization. In the second phase, an independent external evaluation of the Office, which will be commissioned by November 2005, will be conducted under terms of reference that will ensure that the results can be incorporated into the comprehensive review of the governance arrangements. A determination will then be made of the adequate funding level for the Office of Internal Oversight Services, the scope and nature of its activities and mechanisms for its operational independence from the Secretariat.

Independent external evaluation of auditing, oversight and management responsibilities of the United Nations and the specialized agencies

35. My proposals for the conduct of an independent external evaluation of the auditing, oversight and roles and responsibilities of management of the United Nations and the specialized agencies (ibid., para. 164 (b)) will be considered by the CEB High-level Committee on Management. The evaluation will begin in 2005 and I will submit my recommendations, based on the findings and recommendations of the evaluation, to the General Assembly at its resumed session in June 2006.

Independent oversight advisory committee

36. The Secretariat is preparing detailed proposals on the creation of an independent oversight advisory committee that would enhance the independence of United Nations oversight structures and serve as a tool for the General Assembly to

better exercise its oversight responsibilities, drawing on best practices and benchmarks of similar audit and oversight committees (ibid., para. 164 (c)). The Organization's own oversight bodies will be consulted. The functions of the committee would be distinct and separate from the Oversight Committee that I recently established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 59/272. Proposals will be submitted to the Assembly for consideration before the end of 2005.

Expanding services of the Office of Internal Oversight Services to other interested United Nations entities

37. As part of its annual report, the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) will report on its proposal for expanding its services to United Nations agencies that request such services in its 2006 annual report to the General Assembly (ibid., para. 164 (d)).

Zero tolerance for sexual exploitation and abuse

38. I am committed to enforcing the zero-tolerance policy regarding sexual exploitation and abuse by United Nations personnel (ibid., para. 165). To date, there has been very positive collaboration between the Member States and the Secretariat in designing and implementing the zero-tolerance policy. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs are heading efforts by the Executive Committees on Humanitarian Affairs and on Peace and Security to implement the policy consistently in all field activities. The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations will provide initial proposals on a comprehensive approach to victims' assistance by December, which will be forwarded to the General Assembly along with the budgetary implications. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations has also put into place a working group that includes participation from various departments and agencies to further the zero-tolerance policy across the United Nations system. The resources of the Department's new Conduct Unit will also be used to deliver policy and guidance available to the entire system. Furthermore, a United Nations-wide ethics training and certification programme, which reinforces the zero-tolerance policy, has been developed and will be ready in the six official languages by the end of October. A comprehensive report will be submitted to the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations by February 2006, in advance of the resumed sixtieth session.

Further steps to mainstream a gender perspective

39. I have requested all United Nations entities to review and strengthen their gender mainstreaming programmes with a view to developing a system-wide gender mainstreaming policy and strategy, with related accountability mechanisms (ibid., para. 166). My Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, in cooperation with United Nations entities, will intensify the development of new methodologies, tools and competence for gender mainstreaming and updating of existing ones. To this end, the next annual meeting of the United Nations inter-agency Network on Women and Gender Equality in February 2006 will review progress on gender mainstreaming goals. I will submit a report to the Economic and Social Council following the meeting that will provide Member States with a summary of progress made so far and further steps in view of the guidance of the Summit.

System-wide coherence

40. The United Nations Development Group will finalize the strategy and workplan on strengthening the role of United Nations special representatives, resident coordinators and humanitarian coordinators and the resident coordinator system and country-based coordination systems by January 2006, for review by CEB (ibid., para. 169, fourth bullet). A report on progress will be provided through my yearly report to the Economic and Social Council in 2006. In this context, the United Nations Development Group is also liaising with the Emergency Relief Coordinator and through him with the Inter-Agency Standing Committee on the strengthening of the humanitarian coordinator system.

41. The Summit Outcome calls upon me to launch work to further strengthen management and coordination of United Nations operational activities, including developing proposals for more tightly managed entities in the field of development, humanitarian assistance and the environment (ibid., fifth bullet). I intend to review and discuss options for implementing this request with CEB at its meeting on 28 October. This "next wave" of operational reforms is essential if the United Nations system is to fully meet the demands of country-level operations of today and tomorrow.

42. The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs is in the process of developing proposals to improve the timeliness and predictability of humanitarian funding (ibid., eighth bullet). I will be submitting a report to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session on measures to complement the funding currently made available through the Central Emergency Revolving Fund so as to facilitate adequate response to and an increased measure of predictability for humanitarian crises.

43. The members of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee adopted a set of proposals aimed at strengthening humanitarian response capacity in field coordination, water and sanitation, health, camp management and protection on 13 September. The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs is also working with relevant agencies and Member States to further develop and improve, as required, mechanisms for the use of emergency standby capacity (ibid., ninth bullet). A meeting of the principals of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee in December will review progress in implementing the proposals, with a view to their full implementation by early 2006. The Office will also continue to facilitate capacity-building initiatives with non-United Nations partners.

44. In that connection, work continues on establishment of a worldwide early warning system for all natural hazards (ibid., para. 56 (f)) in the context of the implementation of the Hyogo Declaration and Framework for Action. The secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction is preparing a survey of the existing capacity and gaps therein. In this it is supported by an ad hoc working group co-chaired by the World Meteorological Organization and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. The report of the working group is expected to be discussed at the Third International Conference on Early Warning, to be held in Bonn, Germany, in late March 2006, with publication of the final report in April.

Regional organizations

45. The Secretariat is reviewing current agreements between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations and will engage with them to consider where further agreements would be most effective so as to ensure that areas requiring the most active collaboration are addressed as a priority (ibid., para. 170). Such areas include peacekeeping, mediation, conflict prevention and early warning. It should also be recalled that at the sixth high-level meeting that I convened with heads of regional organizations in July 2005 it was decided that future meetings should coincide with the meetings the Security Council holds with regional organizations. This should help to ensure closer involvement of regional organizations with the Secretariat and the work of the Council. At the same meeting, it was also decided to establish a new standing committee to give better policy direction and to follow up on joint activities of the United Nations and regional organizations. The committee's secretariat, located in the Department of Political Affairs, will bring the issues mentioned in the Summit Outcome to the Committee for review and action at its first meeting in late 2005, as well as to the relevant working groups already established and to the seventh high-level meeting, to be held in 2006.

III. Conclusions

46. Work is under way to implement the Summit Outcome and, as described in the present report, I have taken a number of steps already to advance the decisions taken at the 2005 World Summit and will be reporting further as work progresses in each area. Progress in a number of key areas will depend on decisions that must be taken by the Member States, and I would therefore underscore the urgent need for Member States to complete discussions on those issues so that we can move towards implementation.

47. The Summit Outcome represents a historic opportunity to bring about important programmatic and management changes to the United Nations. It is an opportunity, today, that must not be missed if we are to provide the United Nations of tomorrow with the mandates and the institutional basis to succeed in the tasks it will be given.